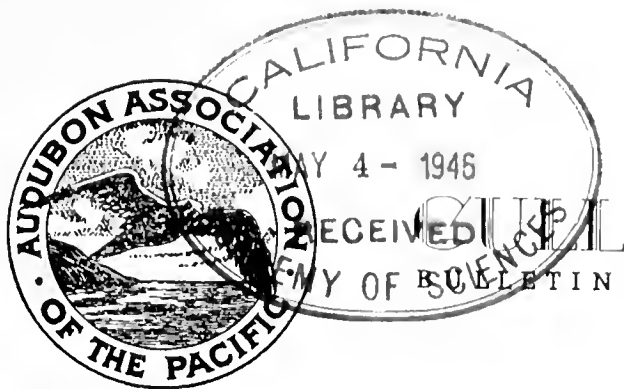


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THE
MONTHLY



Volume 28

San Francisco, California, May, 1946

Number 5

The San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary

The San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary is maintained by the National Audubon Society and sponsored by the local organizations of Southern California, under the chairmanship of Mrs. J. H. Comby, president of the Los Angeles Audubon Society. This sanctuary lies along the banks of the San Gabriel River, twelve miles east of Los Angeles. The rolling Puente Hills form its background on the south-east. To the north are the precipitous San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountains, snow-capped through the winter.

This chosen land comprises about 326 acres, mostly woodlands, containing cottonwoods, alders, creek dogwood, elderberry, wild grape vines, gooseberry and lesser shrubs. Deep in the shade are quiet pools and marshy places, bordering the woods lies an open meadow, while the river furnishes a wide sandy bank. The river itself, being one of Southern California's "upside-down rivers", in this locality happily chooses to remain topside, and its clear waters flow the year round. All this forms a variety of habitats unparalleled within a thirty minute ride of the heart of Los Angeles.

The National Audubon Society has maintained this sanctuary for over ten years. Less than two years ago it purchased an adjacent seven acres, connecting the secluded woodlands with the highway. This acreage contains a variety of fruit trees, a few scattered buildings and a stucco house which affords headquarters for the sanctuary. The plan is to eventually develop an outstanding Nature Center for this Metropolitan area with botanical gardens, museum and student camp facilities.

My duties as "hostess" in this little Audubon House, include welcoming and registering visitors, giving information, and guiding new groups in the field. It is a favorite spot for Scout troops, school and college nature classes, museum collectors (insects etc), and the many nature organizations of the southland.

This sanctuary harbors a number of small animals, opossums, coons etc, but its chief attraction is the bird life. Of course the most famous resident is the cardinal, his flashing beauty and clear whistled calls attract many homesick easterners, as well as curious westerners. Another unusual visitor is the yellow-billed cuckoo. But more than 100 other species are to be found here. This is the home of the red-bellied hawk and the little Anthony Green Heron. Four other herons and the kingfisher find good hunting here. On this St. Joseph's Day, the

white-throated swifts cavort with five species of the swallow family, rivaling the fame of San Juan Capistrano. The voice of the Virginia Rail is often heard among the tules that hide the Witching Yellowthroat, and soon the songs of the Long-tailed Chat, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Russet-backed Thrush will combine with the California Thrashers, already ringing in the woods. Orioles and Tanagers will add color to offset the plainer Yellow-legs, Pipits and Sandpipers of the riverside.

More rarely, the White-tailed Kites are seen over the meadow, the Yellow-headed Blackbirds mingling with the Redwings in the reedy places; through one recent season the Harris's Sparrow and Green-tailed Towhee wintered here.

Space forbids naming all the birds. but with this interesting and varied habitat, there is always good birding here. Ample parking space is provided and visitors are always welcome.

March 19, 1946.

ETHEL E. RICHARDSON,

2610 S. Durfee Avenue, El Monte, California.

Note: Mrs. E. Richardson has been a member of our Association since 1942 and was a Berkeley resident up to a year ago. The National Audubon Society, realizing her value in contacting youth groups and her knowledge of all out-door life placed her as hostess at the San Gabriel River Sanctuary. May she continue to enjoy and to help others to enjoy such an interesting place.

Western Chipping Sparrow

In "The Gull," February 1921, Joseph Mailliard records under the heading: "Census of Birds' Nests in the Music Concourse. Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California, for 1920", the finding of a nest of the Western Chipping Sparrow, (*Spizella passerina arizonae*). In January 1924 he records another nest of this species and in February 1925 two more. If these nests were correctly identified, the birds were surely present to build them, but still there are no recorded observations of this species in Golden Gate Park.

In the "Directory to the Bird-life of the San Francisco Bay Region", by Joseph Grinnell and Margaret W. Wythe, it is given as "recorded once in San Francisco". This refers to a record by Milton S. Ray in *The Condor*, vol. XVIII, Nov.-Dec. 1916, under "More Summer Birds for San Francisco County". "While not an uncommon breeder close up to the county line my only record here is April 20. 1908, when I noted a bird at Bosworth and Milton Streets, in the Mission District."

The only other observations that I have been able to locate are three birds of this species seen by Commander Henry E. Parmenter at Lake Merced, September 6, 1931, and one seen by Selma Werner in the Presidio, June 1, 1937. It is also recorded by Dr. J. Grinnell as being seen twice on the Fallon Islands, May 22, 1887, and June 2, 1911.

Dr. Grinnell says the bird is "to be looked for especially among scattered oaks, sometimes seen in shade trees of gardens, city streets and parks." This

makes the Music Concourse, where the nests were recorded, a likely place to see the species itself. Now that summer will soon be here let us be on the alert for this species in our vicinity.

LAURA A. STEPHENS, San Francisco, California, March 12, 1946

April Field Trip

This trip to Bay Farm Island Pond in Alameda on Sunday, the 14th, was attended by 31 members and guests. In order to observe the shore birds at low tide the group did not leave their meeting place at Lincoln Park till noon. The morning sky was overcast with high clouds but by early afternoon the sun was out warm and bright.

The most unusual sight of the walk was the great flocks of thousands of sandpipers that kept flying up from the marshes to circle through the air. A brown pelican was observed from the Bay Bridge by two San Francisco members, who also saw Mallards, Shovellers and American Golden-eyes at Berkeley's Aquatic Park on their way to pick up a guest for the trip.

Another find was a pair of Mockingbirds seen by Charlie Bryant and Irving Gordon in a brush pile back of the City Nursery near Lincoln Park in Alameda. They behaved as if they were nesting there.

Charlie Bryant was the leader of the trip.

The following fifty-four species were observed:

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|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Brown Pelican | Ruddy Turnstone | Red-shafted Flicker |
| Great Blue Heron | Black Turnstone | Black Phoebe |
| American Egret | Wilson Snipe | Barn Swallow |
| Mallard | Hudsonian Curlew | Cliff Swallow |
| Pintail | Willet | Western Mockingbird |
| Shoveller | Greater Yellow-legs | Robin |
| Canvas-back | Least Sandpiper | American Pipit |
| Greater Scaup | Red-backed Sandpiper | Audubon Warbler |
| American Golden-eye | Long-billed Dowitcher | English Sparrow |
| White-winged Scoter | Western Sandpiper | Western Meadowlark |
| Surf Scoter | Marbled Godwit | Bi-colored Redwing |
| Ruddy Duck | Sanderling | Brewer Blackbird |
| Cooper Hawk | Avocet | House Finch |
| Clapper Rail | Glaucous-winged Gull | Spotted Towhee |
| Coot | California Gull | Savannah Sparrow |
| Semipalmated Plover | Bonaparte Gull | White-crowned Sparrow |
| Killdeer | Forsters Tern | Golden-crowned Sparrow |
| Black-bellied Plover | Caspian Tern | Song Sparrow |

The following 19 members were present: Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Dubois, Mr. and Mrs. H. Leffler; Mrs. Sadie Bozant, Mrs. E. C. Stowell, Mrs. O. Weseley, Mrs. G. Zinke; the Misses A. Berg, F. Blake, J. Fay, M. Goen, B. Myer, F. Stanton, M. Sterne; the Messrs. Charlie Bryant, D. Hurley, A. Myer, H. G. Petersen.

Twelve guests present were Mr. and Mrs. A. Stephens; the Mrs. Hubner, Rudic, Marshall; the Misses M. L. Perry, F. Stewart, G. Crow; the Messrs. J. G. Irving, G. Campbell, T. Hutchinson, J. Rudic.

MISS F. B. STANTON, *Historian.*

Observations

Edited by JUNE W. KELLY

1 Rufous Hummingbird, March 3, 4, Lake Temescal. Mrs. Vee Curtis.

1 Chickadee, chestnut-backed, April 2, Regional Park, Berkeley, Mrs. J. W. Kelly.

May Field Trip

Sunday, May 12th, to the Mc Coy Ranch on the Arroyo Mocho near Livermore.

A chartered Greyhound bus will leave the corner of First and Mission Streets, San Francisco Terminal at 7:45 A. M. thence by the Bridge and then Mac Arthur Blvd. to Broadway, Oakland, where it will pick up our East Bay members and friends at about 8:15 A. M. Please make reservations with payment of \$1.30 for the round trip as soon as possible—May 2nd, being the dead line. Call Miss F. Blake, DO. 8080 (daytime) or Mrs. G. T. Kilham, OR. 4262 (evenings) or mail check to Miss F. Blake, 221 Sansome, S. F., Zone 4. Leader to be Dr. T. Eric Reynolds. Bring lunch and binoculars.

May Meeting

The 344th meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific occurs on Thursday, May the 9th, at 7:30 P. M. in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Library at Larkin and Mc Allister Streets. Miss Grace Crowe of the California Academy of Science, Golden Gate Park, is to speak on "Cultural Value of Birds in History, Art, and Literature" with phonograph records of bird songs and with specimens of bird skins.

Notice: We are sorry to announce the death in January 1946 of one of our members, Miss Elizabeth Richards. She had joined our Association in December 1937.

Notice: Report of April meeting to appear in June "Gull".

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| President..... | Miss Jean Bradford Fay..... | 1150 Filbert St., San Francisco | 9 |
| Corresponding Secretary..... | Mr. Joseph J. Webb..... | 519 California St., San Francisco | 4 |
| Treasurer..... | Miss Ivander MacIver..... | 2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley | 4 |
| Editor..... | Miss Clelia A. Paroni..... | 575 Vincente Ave., Berkeley | 6 |

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p. m.

Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Sts., San Francisco

Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year

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| Student memberships, \$1.50 per year | Life memberships, \$50.00 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer